

The Tidings

October 2015



Ministerial Moments



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The weather is finally cool and beautiful. I have seen that some farmers are harvesting the corn. The PIG is up! That can only mean one thing. Wurstmarkt is coming! One of our two major fundraisers per year when we get everyone who has ever had association with this church and a few that haven't help out and welcome people from as far away as Missouri to come eat our sausage and homemade mashed potatoes and deserts. There is a lot of fun and fellowship which goes on at Wurstmarkt. We also earn a lot of funds which are sent to various missions.

The Bible Study group on prayer is giving me all sorts of ideas as we explore different prayer and spiritual practices. I read a book recently called Knit One, Purl a Prayer and was reminded of how much I used to enjoy knitting and crocheting. I had stopped knitting around 10 or more years ago when my carpal tunnel got so painful I couldn't knit more than three rows at a time. I have decided to take it up again and if I can knit, perhaps we can start a knitting/crochet group this winter. Neither one is hard to learn and there are a number of simple projects we can start with.

Another book I got recently is the use of prayer beads for Protestants. I am pleased it has directions for making one's own prayer beads in the back of the book and may try it. The last book is instructions for walking a Labyrinth. The labyrinth came into popularity during the Middle Ages when many people wanted to make pilgrimages to Jerusalem but the way was too costly and dangerous. The difference between a labyrinth and a maze is that a labyrinth has no dead ends. Many people find it meditative and spiritual. I am told that there is one near Ruma and another in Columbia, IL.

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Wurstmarkt Time!!!



What's that in the front lawn of the church?? Well it's the pink pig in the front lawn of the church. Which means it's that time again. Wurstmarkt Time!!!

Saturday, October 3 - 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

I'm sure that Funds and Fellowship could use as much help as they can get. See the sign up list or Susan Oyler to find out where help is most needed.



Illinois South Conference Annual Meeting

As I stated last month, Illinois South Conference will be meeting Friday and Saturday October 23 and 24. There are always three separate offerings collected during the conference. The first, the Noisy Offering, was collected on Sept. 20 and we will take up another Noisy Offering at the Oct. 11 service. This year, this offering will go to DuBois.

The second offering is for Hoyleton and somehow their wish list got excluded from last month's Tidings. It is as follows and will be posted on the bulletin board. Please bring items to the church and place in the large basket by the entrance.

Cleaning Products

- Laundry Detergent
- Dishwashing Liquid
- All Purpose Cleaner
- Toilet Bowl Cleaner
- Sponges
- Dish Towels
- Other Cleaning Supplies

Personal Hygiene Products

- Deodorant, Shampoo
- Shampoo, Conditioner
- Toothpaste, Hand Soap
- Shaving Cream, Body Wash
- Razors (men's & women's)
- Sanitary Pads, Tampons

Paper Products

- trash bags
- Paper Towels
- Kleenex

The Third Offering is for the Deaconess Faith Community Nurse Ministry. Some of you probably remember when we used to have a hospital in St. Louis. My grandmother worked there as an aide for many years. Since it was sold, first to another hospital and now to the zoo grounds, the money has been put in a foundation. One of the things done with that money was to create a Parish Nurse Ministry which many of our larger congregations have taken part in. In addition, the Foundation has given out grants for other projects. We recently received a \$1500 grant from Deaconess Foundation to begin a literacy program through the library in conjunction with the elementary school. If you wish to make a donation to the Deaconess Faith Community Nurse Ministry, please mark your checks such when you place them in the offering plate so that Kay and Lori can mark them in the "pass through" category and make out a check for me to take to annual conference.

October Birthdays

Kelli Jenkins	4
Linda Jones	5
Mary Jo Warren	5
Michael Lewis	7
Milton Schmierbach	9
Ellie Schmierbach	9
Cindy Galle	13
Pat MacBeth	13
Gary Schmidt	13
Betty Bollmeier	13

October Anniversaries

Albert & Caroline Galle	17
Robert & Ruby Lehman	20



Deaconess Foundation Grant

Earlier this summer, I got word that the Deaconess Foundation was giving grants of up to \$1500 for local literacy programs. I met with Carol Mercer and Robin at the library and we put together a proposal for what we hoped would be a good program. We were supposed to hear back by Sept. 8. Sept. 8 came and went. Well, it's the day after Labor Day, maybe the mail got delayed. Sept. 9 came and went. By the end of the week I was pretty sure we didn't get it.

Well, imagine my surprise when I got my mail on the 14th and in it was a letter from the Deaconess Foundation. Not only was there a letter but we got a grant in the whole amount! The purpose of the grant is to help bring our children who are reading below grade level in Marissa, up to grade level. Robin has begun meeting with Mr. Hipple, the new elementary school principle, to put our plan in motion. We will be needing volunteers to work with the students. As with the Food Pantry, Sonshine Corner, and TWIGS, these volunteers will come from the community. Robin will be getting someone from the school district to train volunteers, so that we are all on the same page as to how children are to be taught to read and how to determine when they are ready to advance to the next level.

If you know of any children to whom this might be of any service or anyone who would like to volunteer, please contact myself, Carol Mercer, or Robin and we will get their names on the list.

World Communion Sunday and Neighbors in Need Offering

World Wide Communion Sunday was originated by the Presbyterian Church (USA) in 1936. The Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches (predecessor of the National Council of Churches) was first associated with World Wide Communion Sunday in 1940.

Today, efforts to promote World Communion Sunday are carried out by participating denominations in a number of ways. In addition to celebrating communion on this date, the UCC collects one of its 5 for 5 offerings, the Neighbors in Need offering. Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national initiatives. Last year, our Ministerial Alliance received a grant of \$2000 which jump started the community garden and has given additional help to the people of Marissa, one with home repairs; others in helping pay rent, energy and water bills and food vouchers.

The other third of the Neighbors in Need Offering goes to help UCC established churches working with the Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidasta, Arikara, and Hocak tribes in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin and northern Nebraska. There is also an urban multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



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Sometime in late October or early November, I am hoping the prayer group and confirmation class will go and try out walking a labyrinth. When we decide on a date we will let you know so it can be open to anyone who wants to join us.

Spirituality is found in many forms. Our prayer life is just part of it. There is no right or wrong way to pray and sometimes looking into different forms of prayer helps us to get out of a rut or to feel ourselves going deeper than we have been before.

Many people claim to be “spiritual but not religious” these days. Some claim to be Christian but they never enter a church. They may have good reason for that as a great many people claiming to be Christians have hurt others. Some have been hurt so badly that they want nothing to do with the community of the church, and yet being a Christian means that we must be in relationship with others, even as God is a Triune God, in community with Christ, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. So yes, the church is made up of imperfect people. Some might even be referred to as hypocrites, but it is in the community of the church that we are in relationship to each other and God. It is in the church, that we strive to grow in Christ and be better than we are.

It is my hope, my prayer, that as members of the greater body of Christ we will open our hearts to all God’s children, for God loves them as well as us, and it is through His grace that we are saved. Amen.

Blessings Pastor Gail

Ken Medema

A special guest musician will be at ISC Annual Meeting this year. Many of you have heard him before and know that this is a remarkable man.

Ken Medema was born legally blind in Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1943. His sight is limited to distinguishing between light and darkness and fuzzy outline of major objects.

Music early became a major component of his life. He began banging on the piano at age 5. When he was eight, his parents got him a wonderful teacher who taught him the classics with Braille music and also to play piano by ear. In time, the teacher taught him to improvise.

He earned a degree in music therapy at Michigan State. He worked as a music therapist in Fort Wayne, Ind. and then got a Master’s Degree at Michigan State before being employed as a music therapist at Essex County Hospital in New Jersey. When there, he began writing his own songs. In 1973, he left his work as a therapist and began a career as a performing and recording artist.

He is married, has two grown children and two grand-children.

Ken Medema performed at either the first or second annual meeting I attended in Illinois South. I was so impressed that I bought 3 of his albums. He is humorous as well as entertaining. I hope that those of you who will not get to hear him at the Annual meeting will get to St. Paul’s UCC in Belleville on Sunday Oct. 25 at 2:00PM to hear him perform then.

OCTOBER 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Friedens UCC Wurstmarkt - 3:00 to 7:00 pm
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> November 1—All Saints Sunday 						
4 World Wide Communion, Neighbors in Need Offering, DuBois Fall Festival	5 Evangelical Daughters 6:30 pm	6 6:30 Food Pantry Meeting	7 Choir Practice 7 pm	8	9 Marissa Movie in the Park	10 City Wide Yard Sale
11 Noisy Offering for DuBois 3 pm Installation at Waterloo	12 Blood Drive	13 Deadline for New Athens Care Home Luncheon 7 pm Council Meeting	14 Choir Practice 7 pm	15	16	17
18	19	20 Noon New Athens Home Luncheon @ St. Johns UCC	21 Choir Practice 7 pm	22 10-6 UCC Clergy Day at King's House in Belleville	23 ISC Annual Meeting @ Our Lady of the Snows Shrine	24 ISC Annual Meeting @ Our Lady of the Snows Shrine
25 2 pm Ken Medema Concert @ St. Paul's in Belleville	26	27	28 Choir Practice 7 pm	29	30 Trunk R Treating Main Street Marissa	31 Halloween

Greeter and Ushers for October and November

October 4 - John Barrett, Sandy Smith

October 11 - Kay Trotter, Mike Trotter, Carol Mayfield

October 18 - Pete & Dave Dressel, Linda Jones

October 25 – Carol Gladson, Susan Oyler, Karla Hellsten

November 1 - Jay & Leslie Lehman, Duane Waeltz

November 8 - John & Janet Fauth, Eloise Fauth

November 15 - Dwayne Waeltz, Pete Dressel

November 22 - Susan Oyler, Kathleen Robert, Linda Jones

November 29 - Ryan & Crystal Cathcart and Family



*Friedens United Church of Christ
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